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REMARKS

Claims 1, 14, and 27 have been amended. Claims 1 – 39 are pending in this Application.

Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 – 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Calvignac et al. (U.S. 6,298,340). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants' exemplary independent claim 1 sets forth:

"A method for performing a plurality of filter operations on a data packet using an instruction, comprising:

receiving an instruction to filter at least one data packet;  
retrieving a filter result based on the received instruction; and  
performing at least two of a plurality of filter operations on the at least one data packet in accordance with the retrieved filter result."

The Applicants' invention enables the capability of performing a plurality of filter operations on a data packet in accordance with a retrieved filter result. Calvignac, in contrast, operates in the conventional manner wherein one filter operation is performed per filter result.

The Office Action states that the Applicants' claim, prior to amendment, read on the performance of a single one of a plurality of filter operations. Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that more than one filter operation is performed in accordance with the retrieved filter result. Calvignac fails to teach or suggest a method for performing a plurality of filter operations on a data packet using an instruction, comprising the step of performing at least

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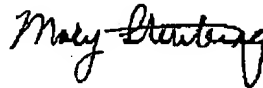
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two of a plurality of filter operations on the at least one data packet in accordance with the retrieved filter result. Independent claims 14 and 27 have also been amended to clarify this distinction. The Applicants therefore respectfully assert that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 - 13, claim 14 and its dependent claims 15 - 26, and claim 27 and its dependent claims 28 - 39 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Date

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